

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02

INT-08 SCI-06 STR-08 DRC-01 /202 W
----- 027929

P R 180440Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8330

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4380

BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ENRG KU

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT DEBATE NATIONALIZATION BILL

REF: KUWAIT 4320

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON PRIVATE BILL CALLING FOR NATION-
ALIZATION OF OIL COMPANIES IN KUWAIT, SCHEDULED FOR DEC 15,
DID NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE QUORUM WAS LACKING BY ONE
MEMBER. WHEN NO QUORUM ON HAND AFTER ONE HOUR, SESSION WAS
CANCELLED.

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2. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DOUBT ABOUT SESSION SINCE TEN DEPUTIES

WERE LEAVING ON PILGRIMAGE, SPEAKER AND SIX DEPUTIES WERE GOING ON VISIT TO SYRIA, AND THREE DEPUTIES PLANNED VISIT BAHRAIN FOR FIRST SESSION OF NEW ASSEMBLY THERE. IT WAS ALSO CLEAR GOK WAS NOT AXIOUS FOR ASSEMBLY TO DEBATE NATIONALIZATION BILL SINCE IT IS URGING ASSEMBLY TO ACCEPT PARTICIPATION; NEVERTHELESS, SEVEN MINISTERS APPEARED FOR MEETING.

3. ALTHOUGH UNLIKELY THAT ASSEMBLY WILL DEBATE NATIONALIZATION AT ITS TUESDAY MEETING SINCE AGENDA FOR THAT MEETING IS ALREADY SET, SUBJECT COULD BE DEBATED AT ANY TIME IF MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY SO DECIDES.

4. CONTRARY TO ASSURANCES RECEIVED BY EMBASSY AND MENTIONED PARA 7 REFTEL, NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOK-COMPANY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT YET MADE. MIN STATE HUSSAIN TOLD PRESS DEC 16 THAT NEGOTIATIONS STILL CONTINUING. WITH EID HOLIDAYS DUE IN TWO WEEKS AND GENERAL TENDENCY HERE TO BELIEVE THAT THE LONGER THE DELAY IN FINALIZING PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT THE MORE ARABS WILL BENEFIT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY GOK WILL MEET ITS OWN DEADLINE OF DEC 31 FOR NEGOTIATION OF NEW PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND ITS APPROVAL BY ASSEMBLY.
STOLTZFUS

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